

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of James Nicholson (Nickleston, Nichleston) ¹ S8918 f50NC
Transcribed by Will Graves rev'd 6/26/17

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indcipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of North Carolina, Stokes County} SS

On this 5th day of October 1844 personally appeared before me Edmond L. Martin a Justice of the peace of Pleas and quarter Sessions in and for the County aforesaid James Nickleston a resident of the County aforesaid aged 82 who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832, that he entered the Service of the United States as a Volunteer and Served as herein after stated (Viz.) he was a resident of the County of Surry (now Stokes N. C.) (he left his home with his father Isaac [Isaac Nicholson] who was a regular Soldier in the Service of the United States at home on furlough) as well as he can now recollect about the year 1781, and went with the said Isaac to Duplin Court house N. C. where the Army was then Stationed. I there joined the Troops as a Volunteer, the Captain's name that I was enrolled with I do not now recollect, though a man by the name of Rayford [sic, possibly Robert Raiford] was our Major, the number or name of the Regiment I cannot recollect, and after staying there some time the Army was divided and my father Isaac was sent somewhere near Charleston South Carolina and I still remained at Duplin Court house and afterwards, was taken by our Major Rayford as a Servant or a Trainer of our horses, and frequently cooked and sometimes washed for our mess, from that time until the close of the War, which was as well as I now recollect 15 months from the time I Joined the Army, at which time my father being discharged came by after me when we returned home together to stay now where I now live and have ever since, the officers who I was under and those of our mess was Major Rayford, Captains Hadley, Hill & Lamb, our Colonel's name as well as I can recollect was. Girpin McRea [sic, Griffith John McRee ? I was not in any engagement Neither was the Troops where I was stationed that I now can recollect I was marched from Duplin Court House to a Little Village by the name of Elizabeth Town where I was taken Sick, and left by the Main Army where I remained for some time before I obtained my health sufficient to do duty though on the recovery of my health, I again returned to my duty and performed the Service required of me until the close of the war when I was honorably discharged, and the Army was disbanded. For further information he would refer the department to the annexed affidavits, he hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of the Agency of any State as (if any) only on that of the Agency of the State of N. C.

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

Test: S/ E. L. Martin, JP

S/ James Nickleston, X his mark

¹ BLWt7295-160-55

Question 1st Where and in what year were you born?

Answer I was born in the County of Albemarle Virginia, the year I don't recollect.

Question 2nd Have you any record of your age and if so where is it?

Answer I have none

Question 3rd Where were you living when called into service: where have you lived since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live?

Answer I was living in Surry County N. C. now Stokes, when I went into the Service, and still lived in said County

Question 4th How were you called into service; were you drafted; did you volunteer or were you a substitute, and if in substitute, for whom?

Answer I volunteered

Question 5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served, such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service.

Answer the name of the officers and General circumstances of my Services is set forth in the body of the declaration, with the Exception of Captains Rhodes and McRea

Question 6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the service, and if so, by whom was it given and what has become of it?

Answer I received a discharge at the close of the War (I think Major Rayford gave it to me, at Duplin Court House or near there, I cannot exactly recollect, as the Army was disbanding and received their discharges at various points) which has since been lost or mislaid

Question 7th State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and their belief in your services as a soldier in the revolution.

[Answer] Wm H. Reeves, & Wm Wood – John Sanagre [?]

the applicant further States that it would be attended with a Great [indecipherable word] of Trouble and expense for him to obtain the certificate of a clergyman as there is no one acting in that capacity in his neighborhood and that from Bodily infirmity he is not able to go to court to make this declaration without very much endangering his health which is very delicate. To the Truth of which I concur.

S/ E. L. Martin, JP

the applicant further states that the cause of his not applying for a pension sooner was that he had intended to [indecipherable word] and live without it, but from old age and Infirmity he has been compelled to ask aid from the country for which he served.

[Wm H. Reeves, Wm Wood, and John Sanaz [?] gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

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State of North Carolina, Stokes County

This 4th day of September 1848, William Palford² [sic, William Pafford] personally appeared before us William A. Mitchell and William Davis two of the Justices of the peace in and for said County, and made oath in due form of Law, as follows to wit – that he the said Palford was a Soldier in the Revolutionary war that he was acquainted with Isaac Nicholson the Father of James Nicholson who was the only son of said Isaac Nicholson that the said Isaac Nicholson was enlisted for during the war a commissary General when he Palford was discharged, that they belonged to Captain William Armstrong's Company.

S/ Wm Palford, X his mark

Sworn to and subscribed before us the day and date above written

2 Sic, this individual filed for a pension under the name [William Pafford W5483](#)

Attest
S/ Wm A. Mithcell, JP
S/ Wm Davis, JP

[affidavit in support of applicant's claim was filed and signed by Samuel Hill, Jr., Samuel Hill, Sr., Brevard Butting, William Moore, Sr., Joseph Smith, Sr.]

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State of North Carolina, Stokes County} SS

The deposition of William Pafford Taken in favor of James Nickleston a revolutionary Soldier – this deponent deposeth and saith that he was not intimately acquainted with said Nickleston when in the service of the United States, as he this deponent was attached to the division of the Army stationed at James island near Charleston South Carolina and the said Nickleston was stationed at Duplin court House N. C. or near that place, though he knows that the said Nickleston Joined the Army as a volunteer, the Time he served he this deponent does not know, though he this deponent was personally acquainted with Isaac, the Father of James Nickleston in the Army acting as commissary General, and that the said Isaac had frequently told him this deponent that his son James was at Duplin Court House under one major Raiford had been for some time and this deponent further says that he saw several letters from James to his father written at or near Charleston S. C. some of which informed him that he was Sick in the Little Village called Elizabeth Town, and at the close of the War this deponent and the said Isaac Nickleston were both discharged at James Island near Charleston S. C. and the said Isaac told this deponent that he had to come by Duplin Court house after his James and this deponent went directly home to Stokes N. C. and after remaining there a short time he this deponent went to the said Nicklestons to see if they had returned and was present when they did return, that he this deponent has been well acquainted with the said James ever since the revolution and believes him to be a man of truth and veracity and concurs with him in his Statements set forth in his declaration and never heard it disputed, and this deponent further said is that he this deponent is now upwards of 80 years old and is a pensioner and further this deponent saith not. Sworn to and Subscribed the 23rd day of October 1844.

S/ Thos. Martin

S/ Wm Pafford, X

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State of North Carolina Stokes County} SS

The Affidavit of James Smith Jr. taken before me a Justice of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for the County aforesaid in favor of James Nickleston [sic] a Soldier of the Revolutionary War, this deponent deposeth and saith that he has been personally acquainted with James Nickleston who was a Soldier of the War of the Revolution and now an applicant for a pension in the Time of that War; – and a [indecipherable word] until a few years past And that he this deponent knows that the said Nickleston was in the War aforesaid, and Served as set forth in his declaration in part, he the said Nickleston went into the Service as a Volunteer, with his Father who was a regular Soldier in that War (at home on Furlow) that he Joined the Army at Duplin Court House North Carolina, and went into Service under one Major or Colonel Raiford (this deponent does not recollect which) and that the said Nicholson Served as a cook & also Trained horses a portion of his Time, and was Frequently out on Scouting parties after Tories, this deponent further says that he is now about Eighty years old, and thinks that Nickleston is about that age and further says that he this deponent served a Tour of three months in the War of the Revolution, at Duplin Court House North Carolina, Where he found James Nickleston who

was in the Army then Stationed there, where he went, and he left him there, where he remained, until the close of the War, when he was discharged and that this deponent further knows that the said Nickleston has been urged at various Times to prosecute his claim for a pension, though he ever refused being a very jealous hearted Man, and also very fickle minded, he could not do it himself and Afraid to depend on Others, until the present attempt, And it is possible would not have made the attempt now only that old age, poverty & infirmities are staring him in the face every day which has caused him at this late a day to ask for a pension, and that he was a Soldier of the Revolution, and a man of Truth and veracity he this deponent never heard it doubted, and in that he concurs. Further this deponent saith not.

Signed in the presence of NB the above [indecipherable word] and [indecipherable word] was made before assigning the same.

S/ J. Martin, JP

S/ Jas Smith Jr., X his mark

[Attested January 15, 1847]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$52.68 per annum commencing March 4, 1831, for service as a private in the North Carolina Continental line.]